

VAMPIRE GAME

Volume 15

JUDAL



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO



VAMPIRE GAME

The Story Thus Far...

This is the tale of the Vampire King Duzell and his quest for revenge against the good King Phelios, a valiant warrior who slew the vampire a century ago. Now Duzell has returned, reincarnated as a feline foe to deliver woe to... well, that's the problem. Who is the reincarnation of King Phelios?

Duzell thinks he knows, but he's not talking. Could it be Yujinn, the prince of Zi Alda who has been moonlighting as Princess Ishtar's magic instructor? Or Lassen, the vile-and recently defeated-ruler of Mil Seil? What about Illsaide, the powerful heir to the Ci Xeneth throne who also happens to be part monster? The truth is that it could be any of these, and if Duzell intends to see his mission through, the ramifications will be felt throughout the entire kingdom.

Or rather, they WOULD be if the entire kingdom wasn't about to crupt into civil war. A line has been drawn. On one side. Lassen readies his troops for a strike against ishtar. He is a mighty foe indeed, for not only is Sharlen, the powerful Vampire Marquis, loyal to him, but it appears that the destructive, half-monster Illsaide may be as well. Facing him are the forces loyal to Pheliosta. Led by Princess ishtar and her faithful guard (and intended heir to the Pheliostan throne) Darres, they include the kingdoms of La Naan. Ci Xeneth and Zi Alda. However, ishtar was recently dealt a mighty blow when her friend and ally, Yujinn, was seemingly murdered by none other than the King of Razenia, Prince Vord of La Naan's biological father.





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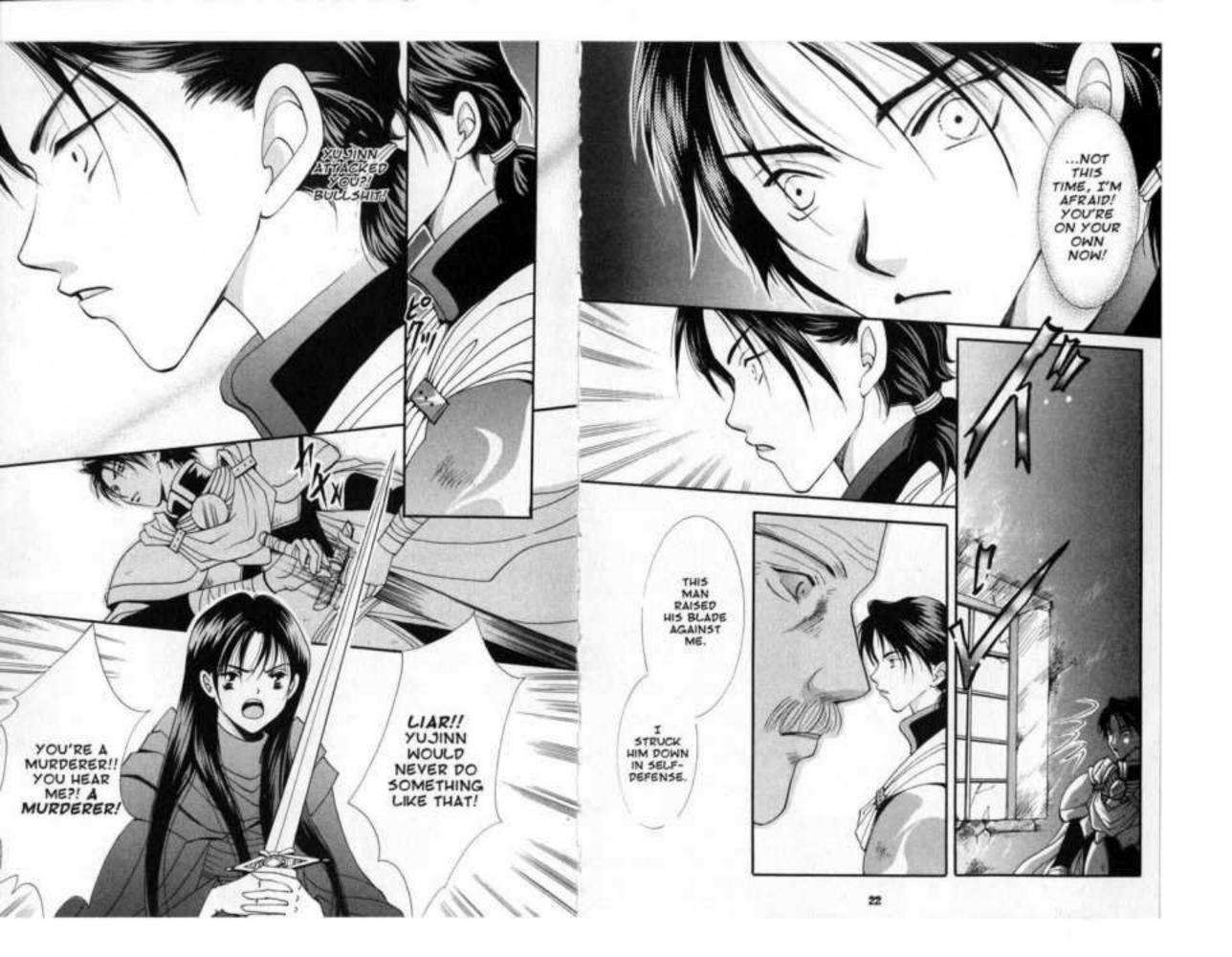
























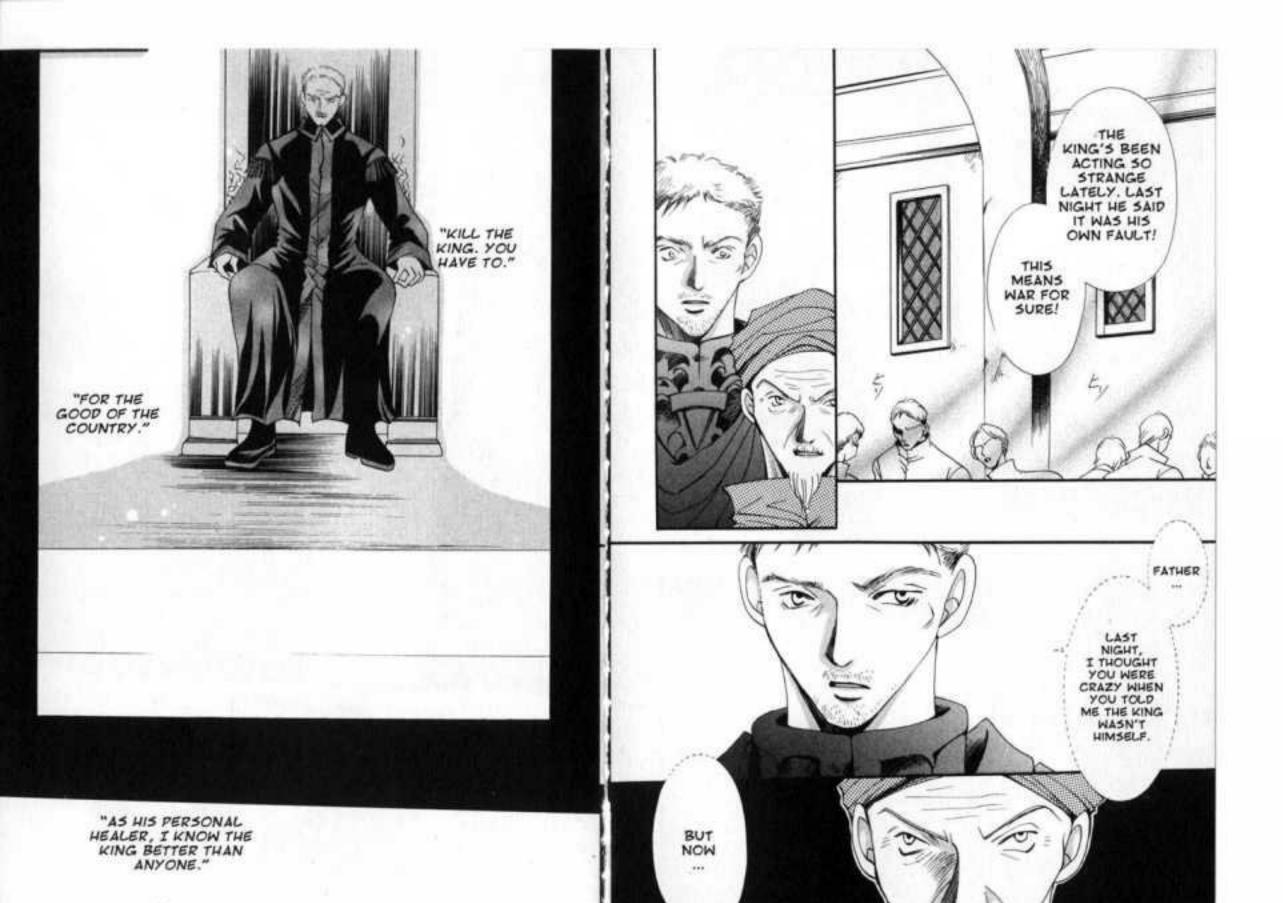
















































































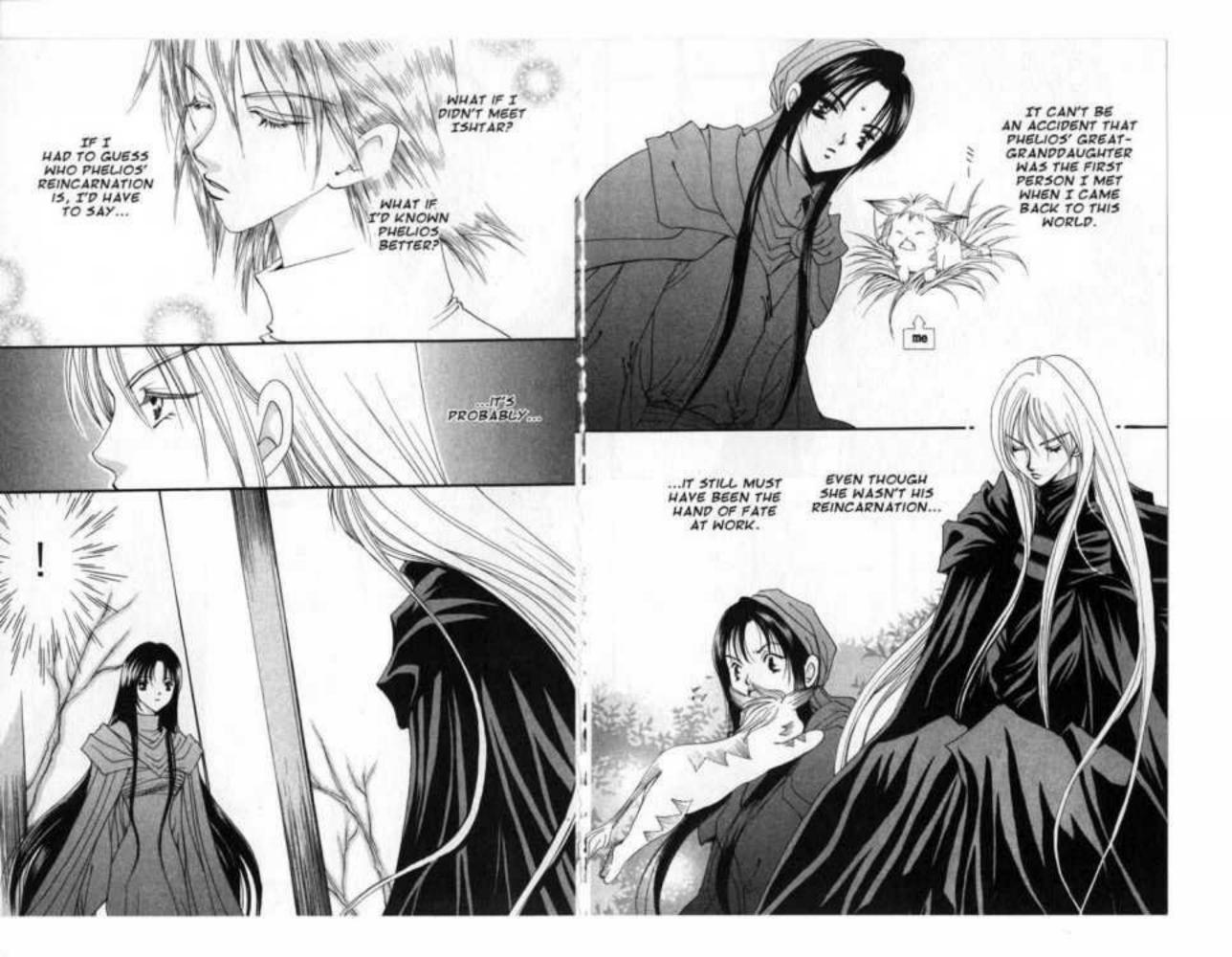






















I KNEW
HE'P INSIST
ON COMING
WITH ME IF
I TOLD HIM
ABOUT THIS
MEETING,
BUT IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS.
SO I KIND OF
HAD TO LIE
TO HIM...











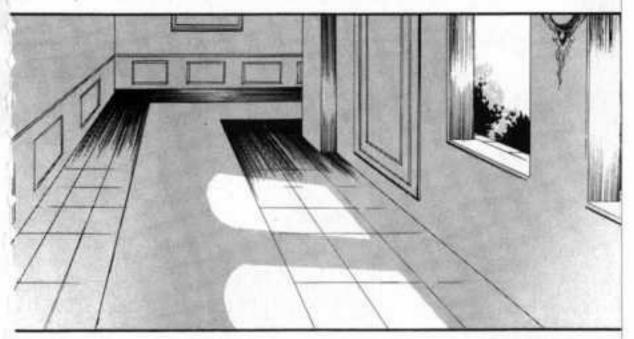


I THOUGHT I'D FIGURED OUT HOW TO WIGGLE PAST YOU!

> Hee hee! You get









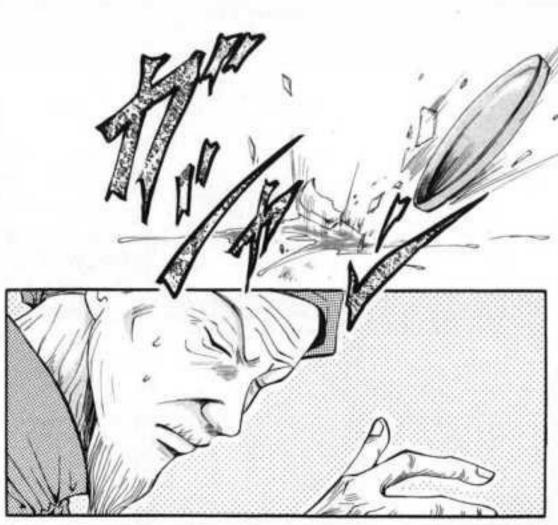
YOUR
MAJESTY'S
RECENT
RECOVERY
IS NOTHING
BUT THIS SHORT
OF A
PREVENT MIRACLE.
ANY
RELAPSE. OF COURSE IT IS. IF HE THINKS I'M GOING DOWN THAT EASILY...







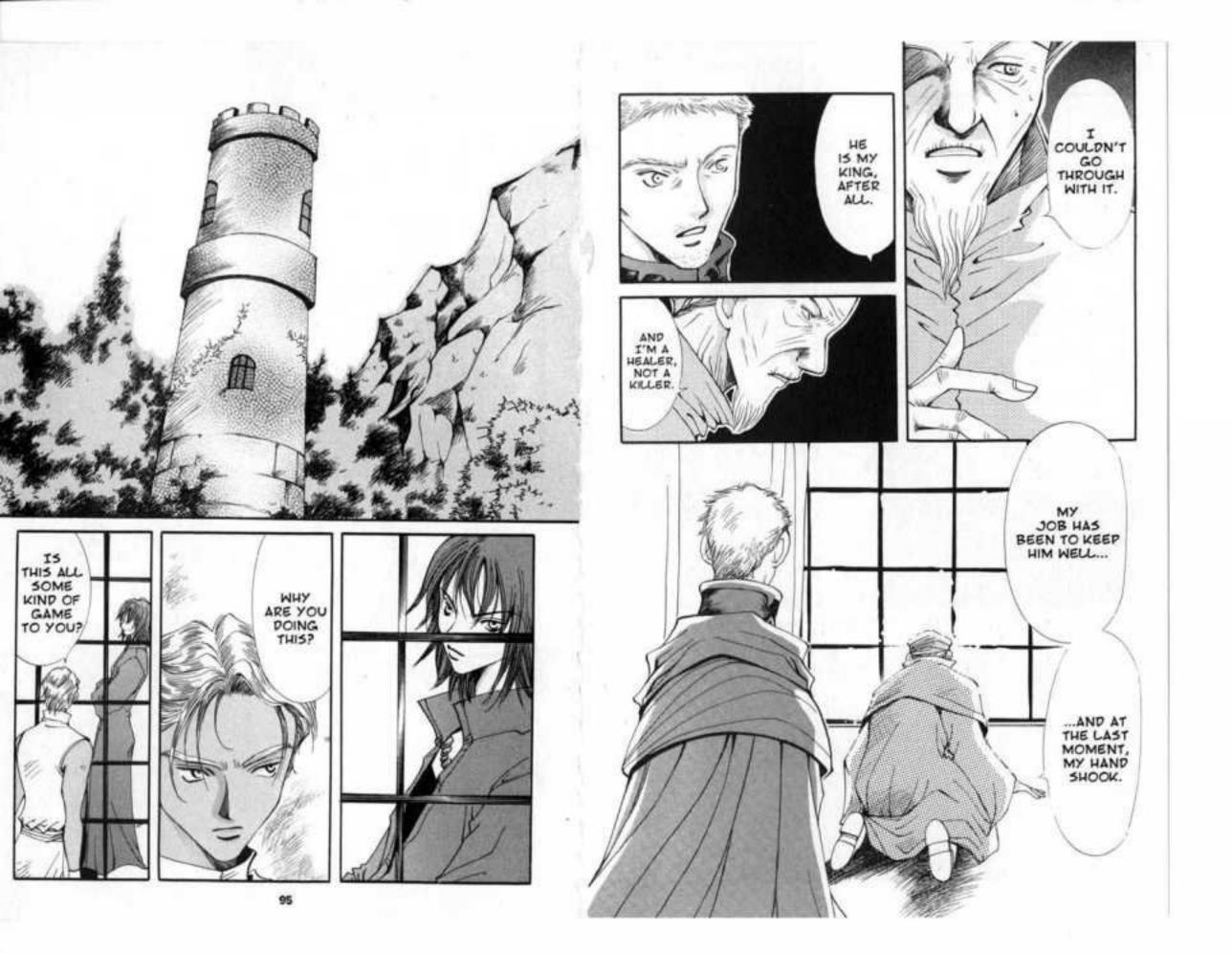




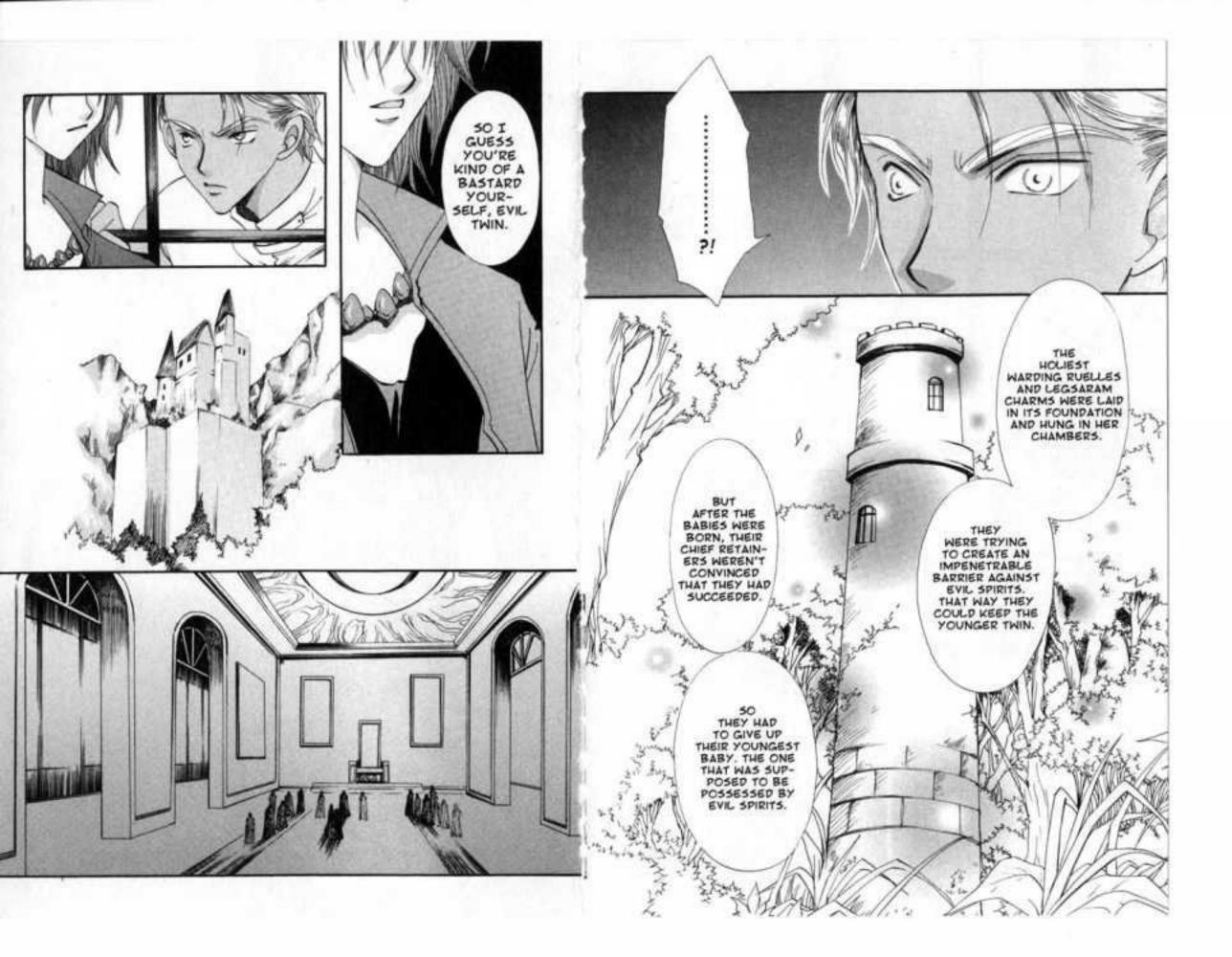






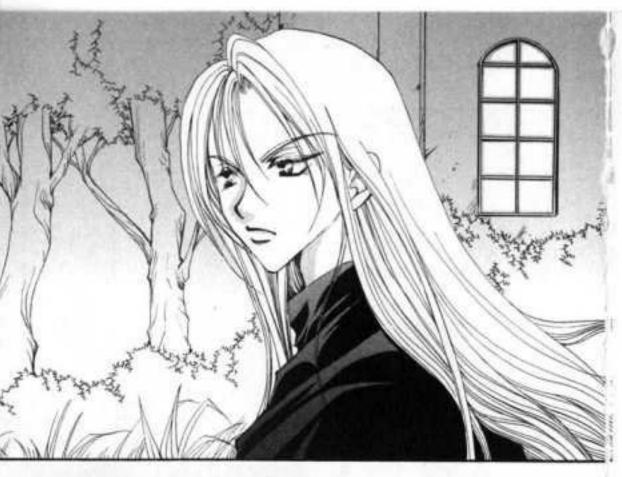












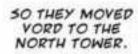




...ABOUT THE LEGEND, WAS WHY HE WANTED



...ISHTAR WILL BE CRUSHED. BUT IF I JUST LEAVE VORD THERE AND SOME-THING HAP-PENS TO HIM...









































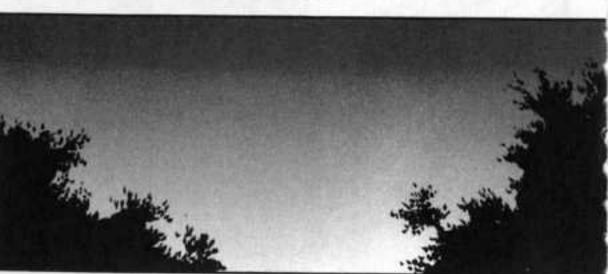














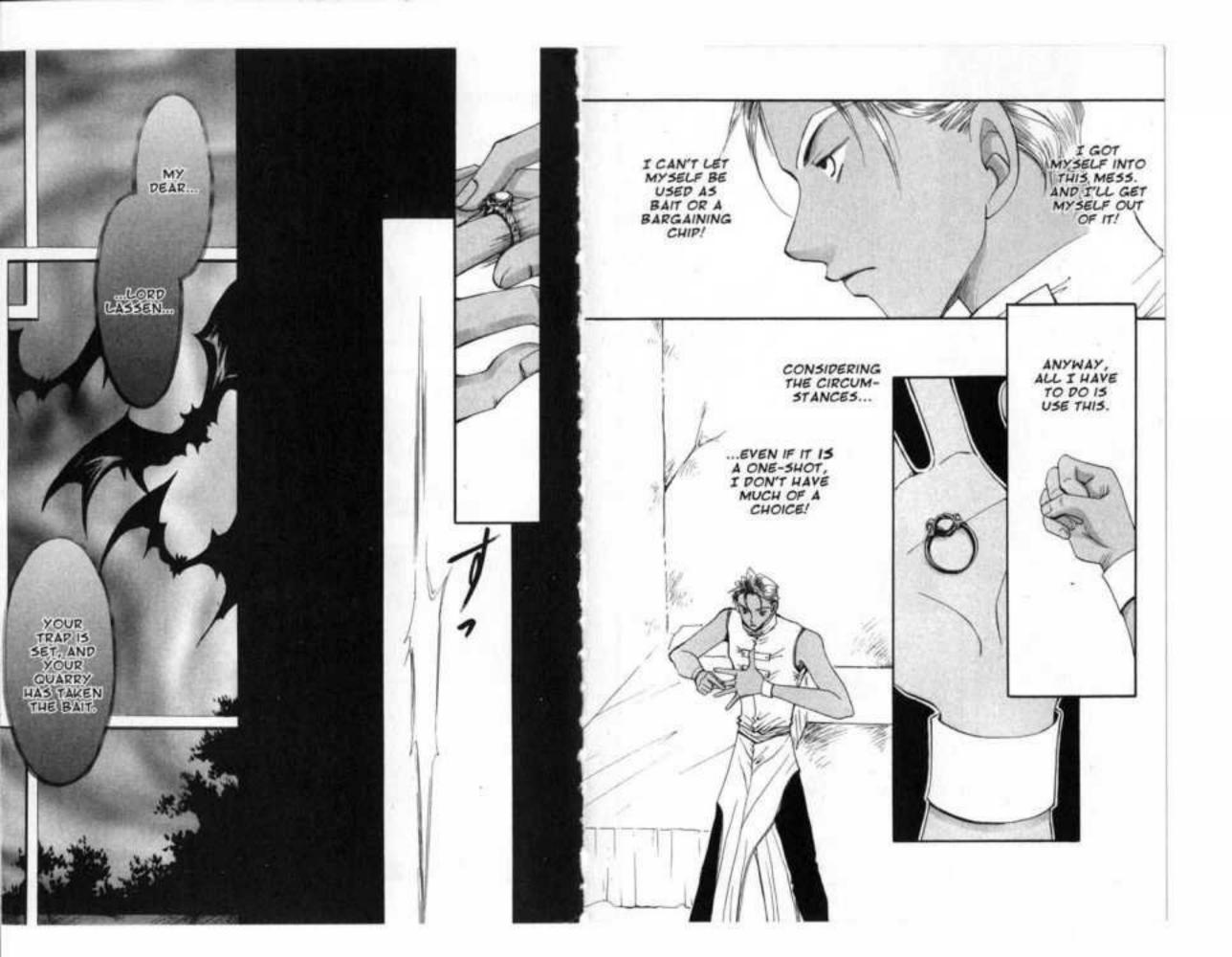


























SO BE IT, THEN.

































THERE'S NOTHING I CAN TO THAT ASHLEY CAN'T.

DUZELL

AND DARRES

CAN TAKE

CARE OF

LASSEN

AND HIS

CREEPY

FANS.



















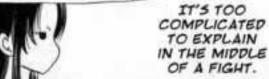








DARRES STILL THINKS ALL THE DUZELLS ARE DIFFERENT!

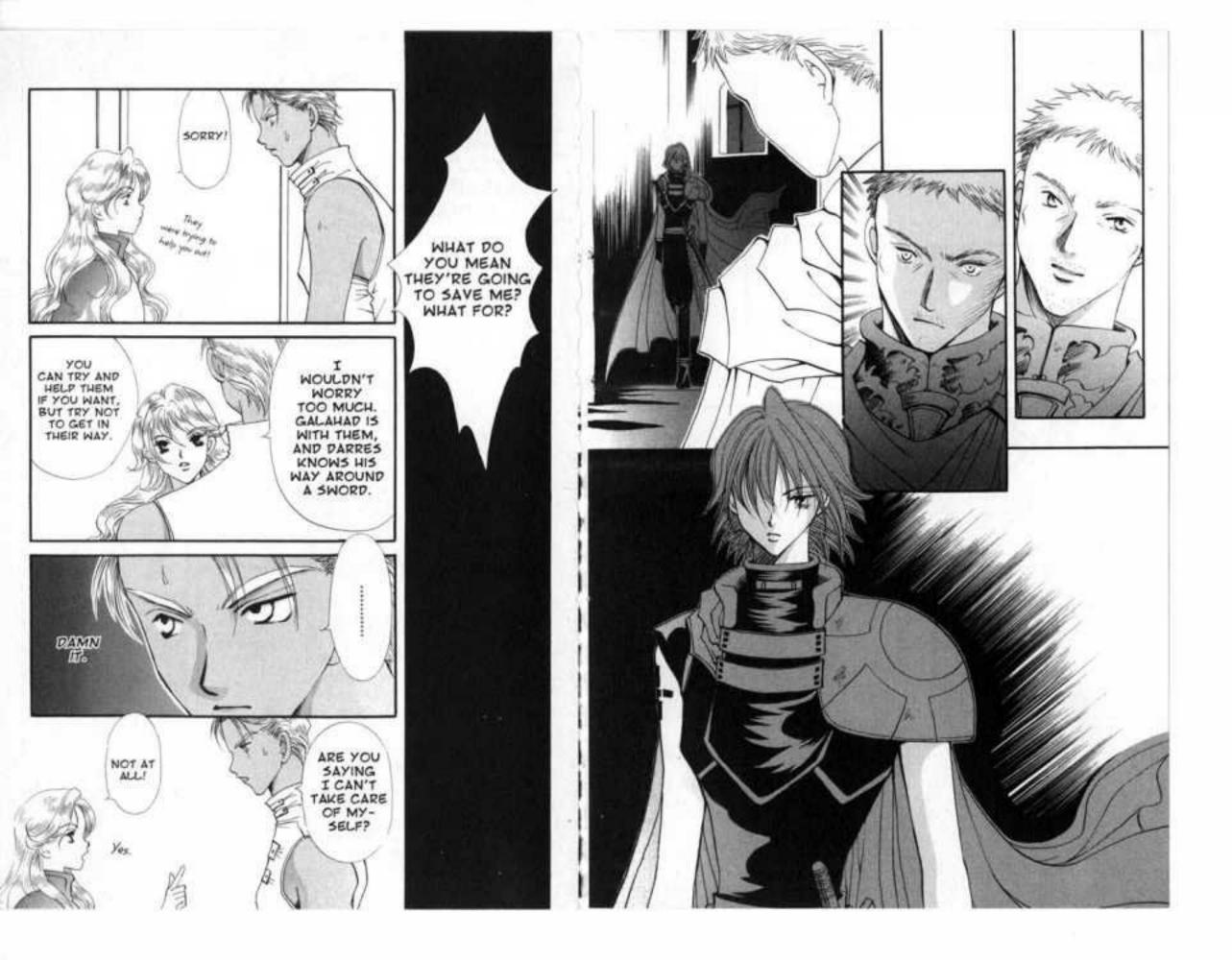




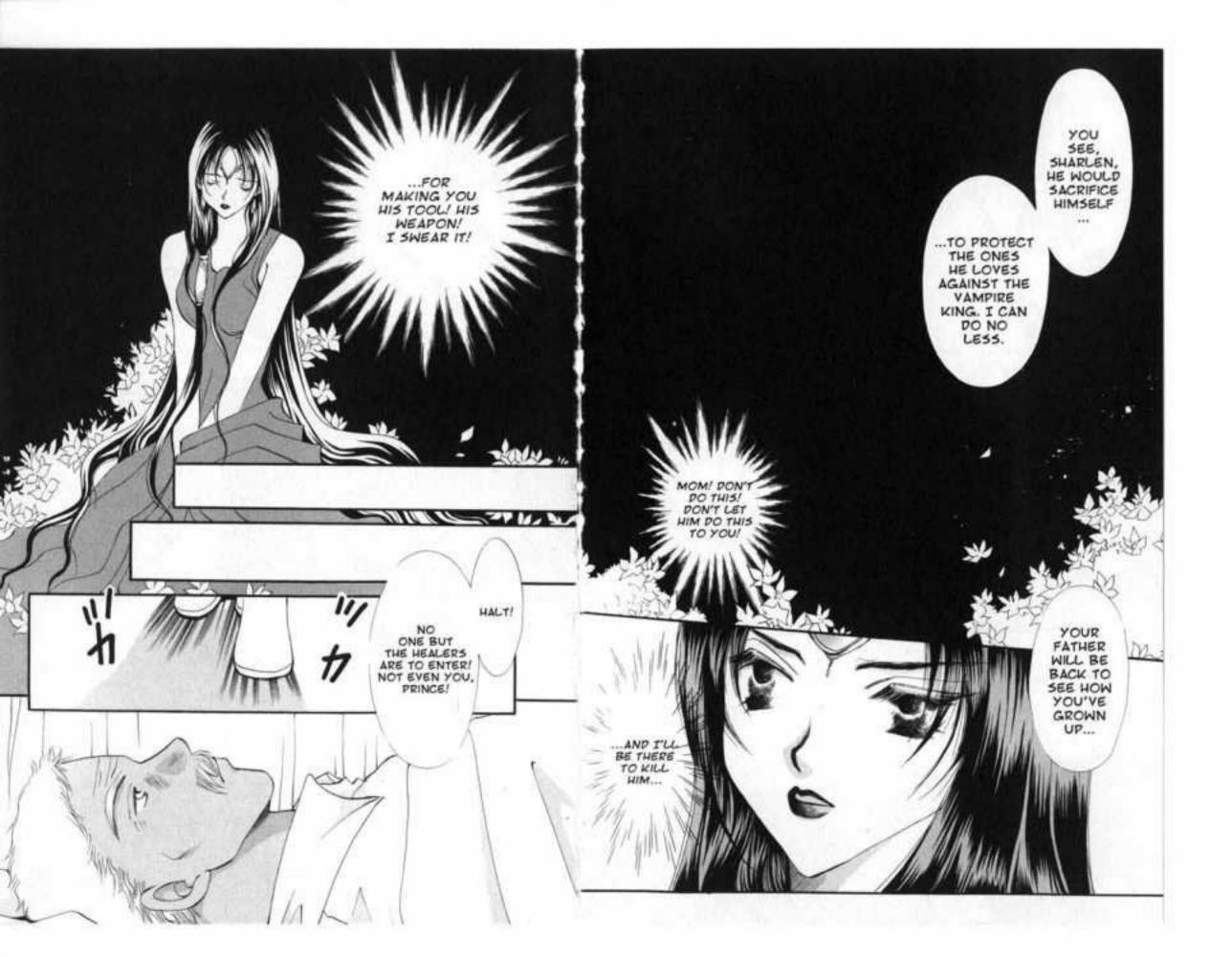














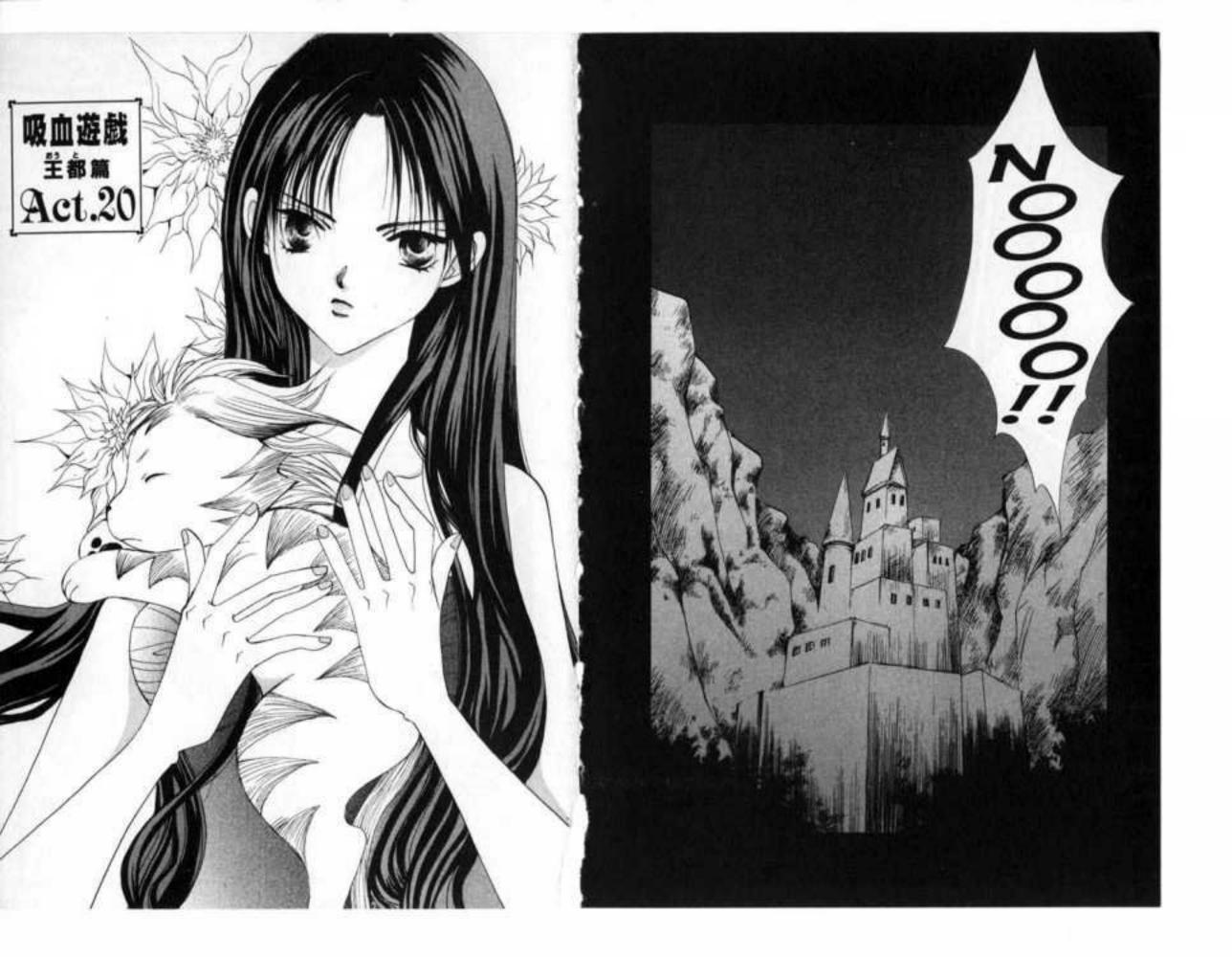












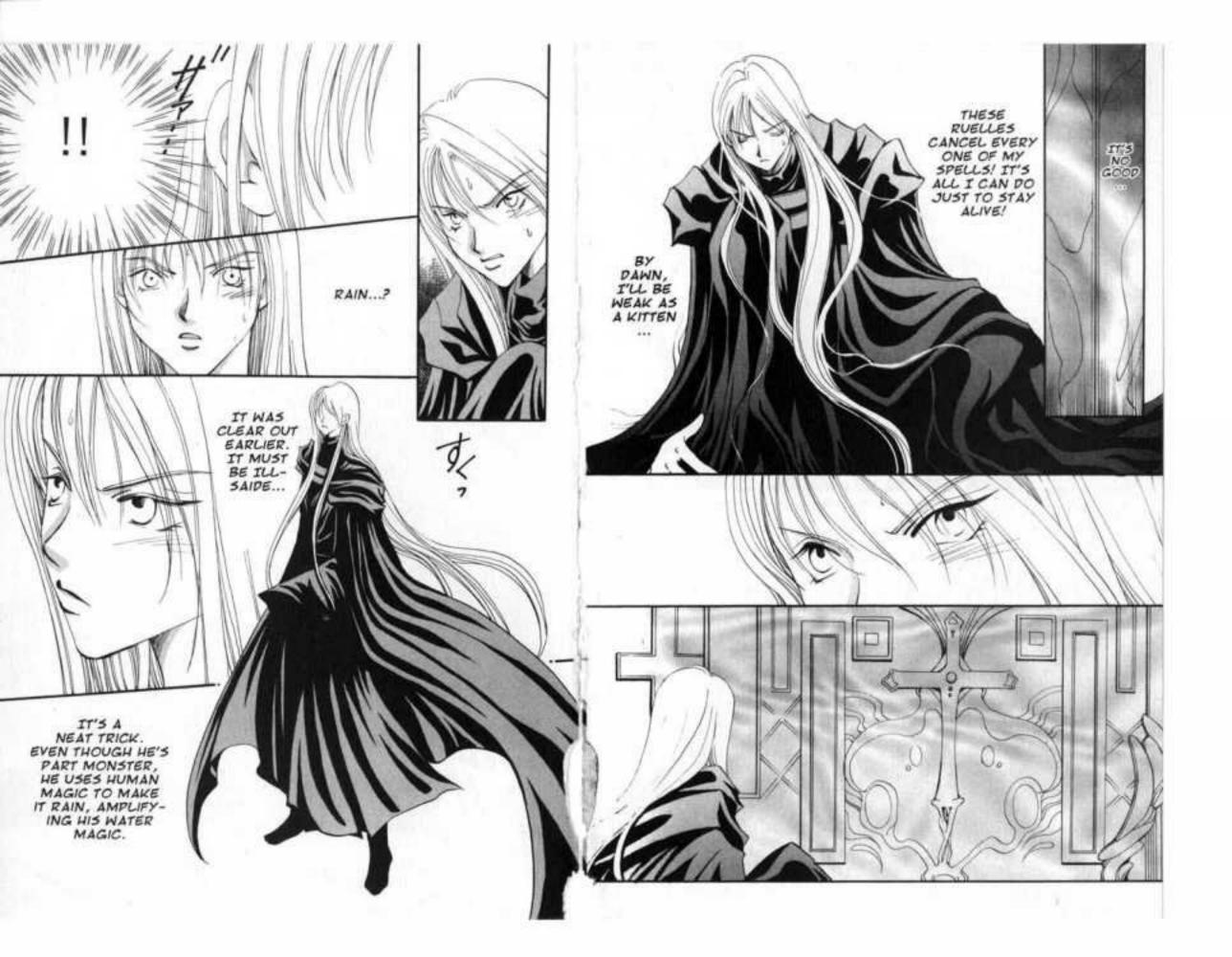






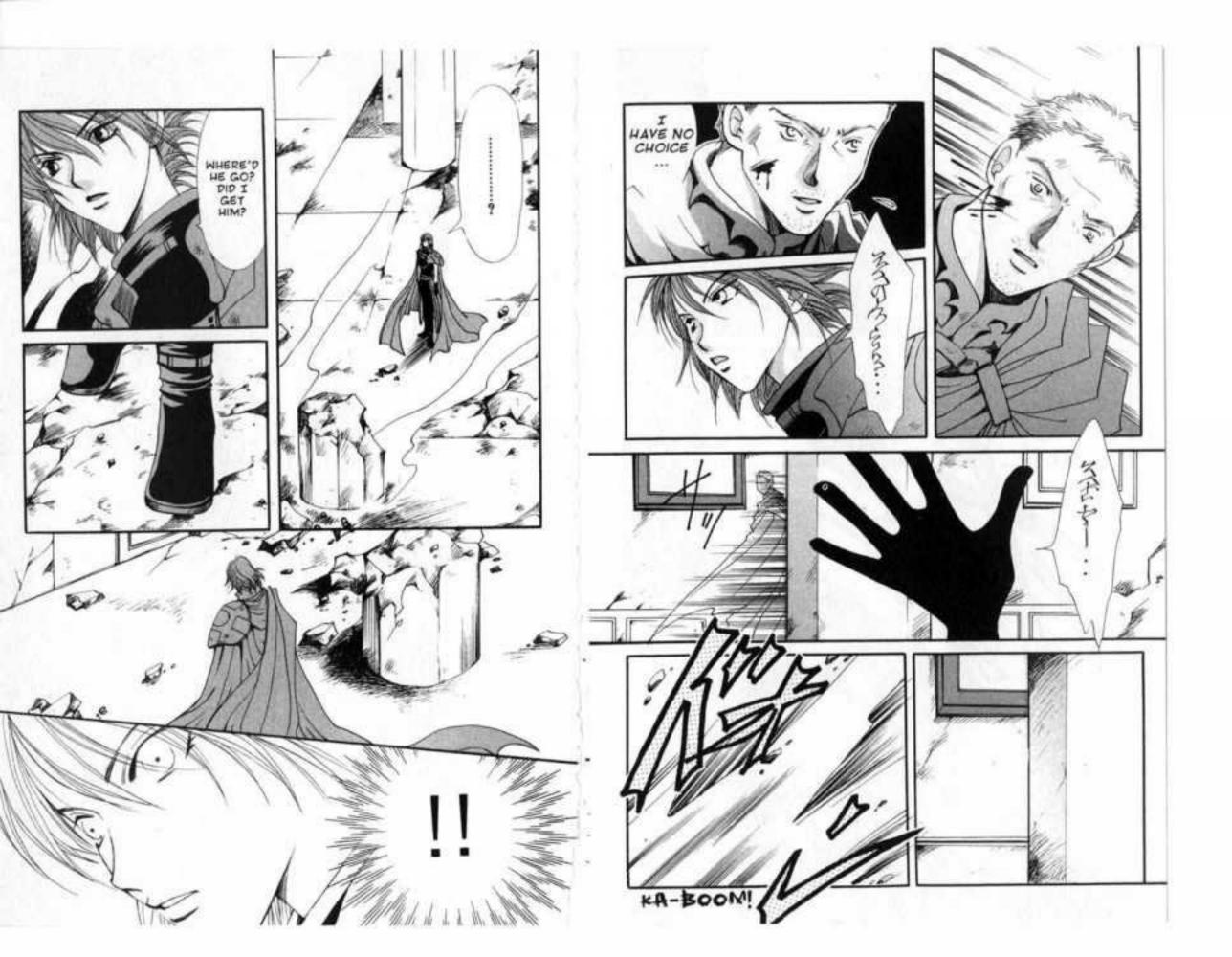


















...IS RIGHT THROUGH

THAT



















ISHTAR'S LIFE IS IN DANGER BECAUSE I WALKED INTO THIS RIDICULOUS TRAP.

I CAN'T LET HER SACRIFICE HERSELF FOR ME.

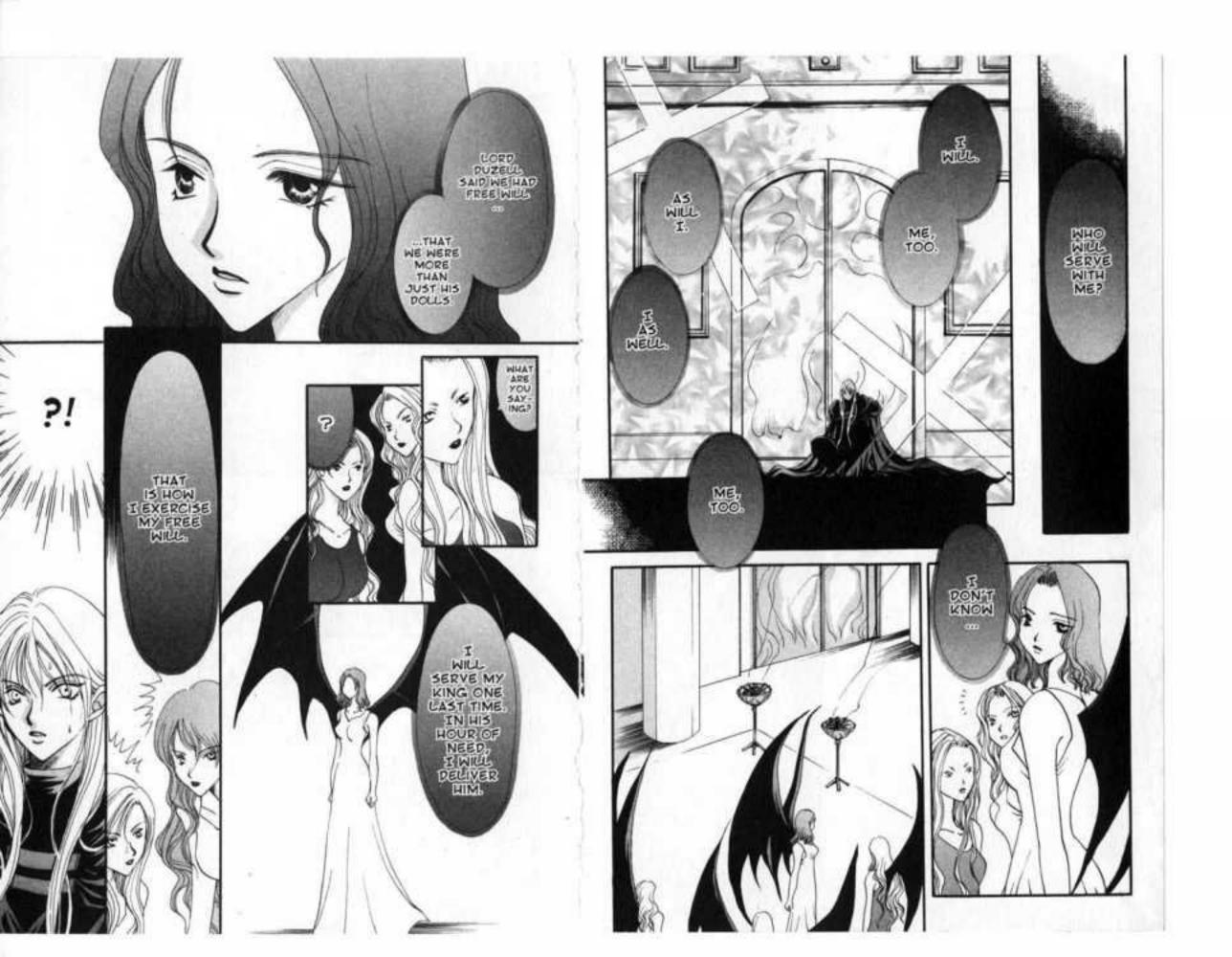


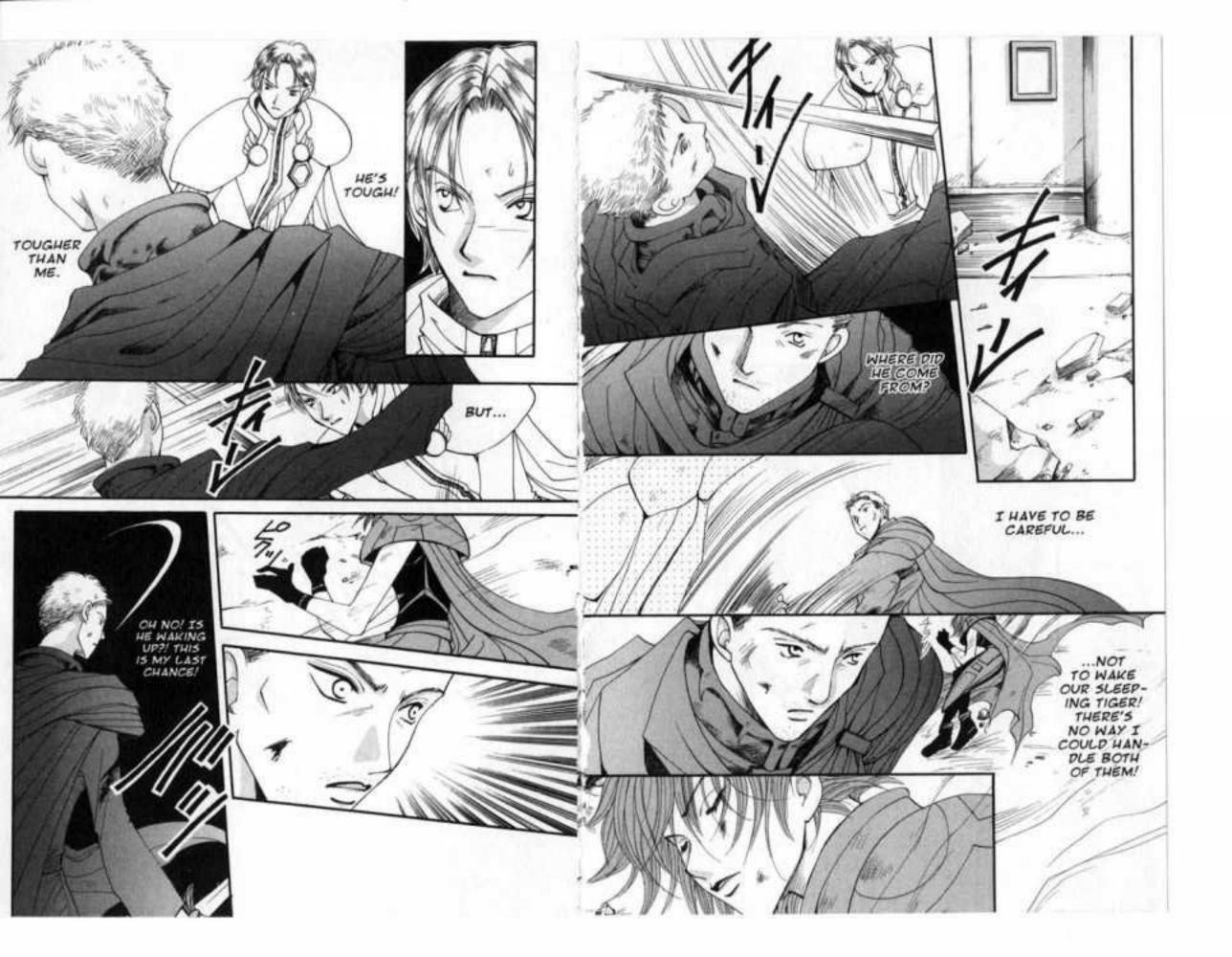






















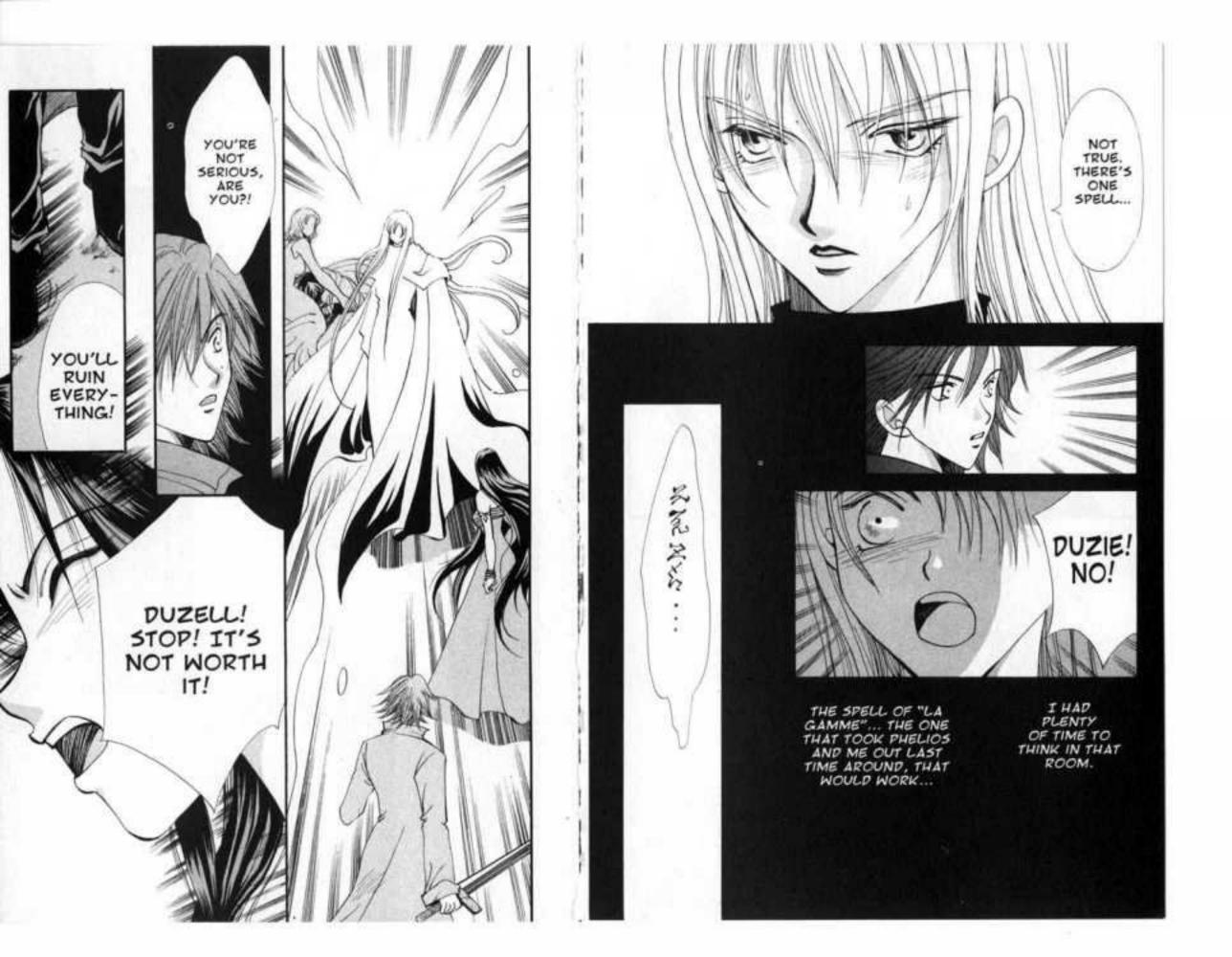


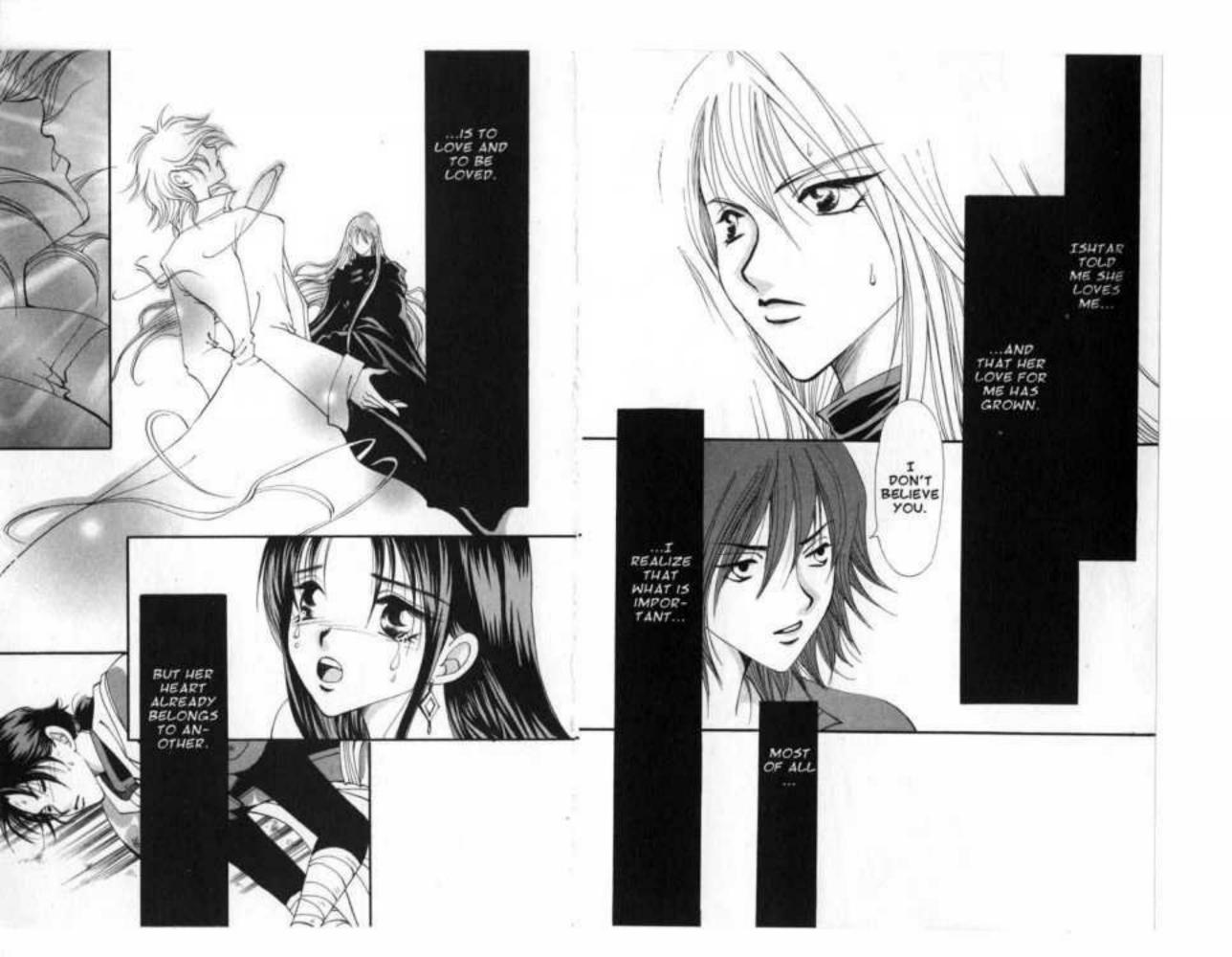




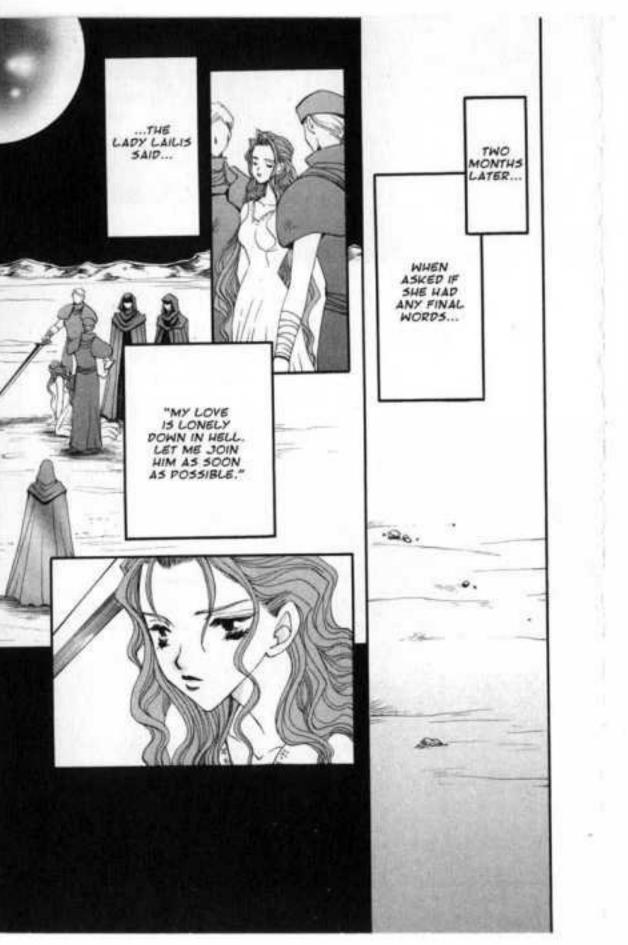






























...IT WAS A PROMISE...



...THAT
IF HE
GOT
KILLED
THIS TIME
AROUND...

Thank You!



The Final Farewell...











A Farewell to Pheliosta

So that's it. The last volume of Vampire Game. Man, am I ever going to miss it.

I was given Vampire Game to edit (first as an associate editor, then as the editor proper) a few weeks after I started at TOKYOPOP, and of all the manga series that have been assigned to me, it's the one I've been on the longest. But when I first started on the title, I never expected it to have the sort of impact on me that it has. Vampire books are a dime a docen, and although I love a good vampire tale as much as the next guy, they all tend to be pretty similar. Think about it. When was the last time you read a vampire book that was truly original?

Heh... That's a dumb question. After all, you're reading one.

Vampire Game is unique. It's a vampire story where the vampire is very much in the background. It's a tale that's full of intrigue, corruption and magic and is set in a fantasy world that can hold its own with Middle Earth. Normia and Discovered. And yet, Vampire Game is no more a fantasy than it is a horror story. It's a coming-of-age comedy. After all, while Duzell's a big part of this story and has a strong influence on the characters in it, this isn't his story. Not really. This is Ishtar's book, and it's about her journey from childhood to adulthood, as she accepts her responsibility as the future ruler of Pheliosta and ascends into her position as Queen. It's a journey that all of us have to make in our own way (though most of us don't have the assistance of a vampire king to help us through it!).

However, as a manga series. Vampire Game represents more than just this. As of today, there are

more than 40,000 copies of Vampire Game Vol. I in print. That's not a bad number for a graphic novel, especially considering that Vampire Game is the only manga series by Judal to be licensed and reprinted in English (so far) and that it came out at the same time as such highly anticipated and buzzed-about manga titles as Chobits, Love Hina and MARS. When you also consider that Vampire Game lacks an accompanying anime (a fact that's nearly criminal in my mind), this number seems downright breathtaking. Over time, this series has been gaining form, and it's been gaining them through nothing more than good word of mouth.

So what does it mean? Well, to me it demonstrates that it's possible, even in this era of massive marketing campaigns and anime on network TV, for a series without much going for it other than a compelling story and solid activers to find an audience. Even better, with so many readers just discovering it, it suggests that Vampire Game will cantinue to be read well into the future. And that, my fellow fans, makes it just a little bit easier to say goodbye.

Tim Beedle Editor July 2006



Then After 20 Years...









10 Years Later ...



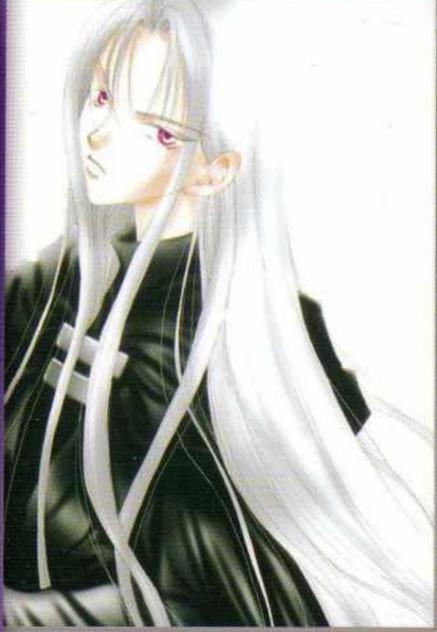






Manga antasy/Cómedy US \$9.99 CAN \$12.99 UK £6.99

WAMPIRE GAME





When Yujinn is slain by the King of Razenia, Vord violently seeks out the murderer. But how can be avenge his friend when the killer is his own flesh and blood? Meanwhile, the villainous Lassen unveils his master plan to usurp the Pheliostan throne. With an army vastly superior to Ishtor's readying its attack, the future of her kingdom resis in the loyalites of two powerful beings: Duzell and Manide. It's the kingdom's darkest hour, and true bravery and spirit will shine,

as heroes rise—and fall!





